Guidance on COVID-19
V1.0 10.04.2020

Guidance on new born baby’s blood spot collection where household members have suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection

Equipment should be organised as a PPE pack and sampling pack before entering the home

PPE Requirements
- Alcohol based hand rub
- Plastic Apron
- Surgical mask
- Eye protection (goggles only required in exceptional circumstances if there is a risk of splash)
- two pairs of gloves
- one large healthcare risk waste bag
- Detergent wipes
- A small plastic sheet work surface

To remain in the car – spare black bags, plastic bag, ABHR

Sampling Pack
- Specimen collection equipment

Procedure

BEFORE Arriving at the Residence
Ask questions to form an understanding of the nature of the person’s condition and the nature/location of residence. Where possible contact should be limited to the parent/guardian who is asymptomatic or with the mildest symptoms. If this is not the parent / guardian with the legal capacity to consent, then clear written authorisation of the parent / guardian with the ability to consent (usually mum) needs to be provided to the PHN.
Establish if there is a porch, hall or corridor just inside the entrance door and how many rooms are available. Request that a small table or chair be placed in the hall or in a room just off the hall to provide the tester with a work area.

Establish if there is room directly off the entrance hall and if so arrange that if possible the patient will meet the PHN with the infant there.

Establish if there are children or other in the residence and if so that they are asked not to greet the PHN and if possible to remain in a room or rooms separate from the patient and to avoid contact with the PHN and make it clear in particular that handshaking should be avoided.

Establish if there are companion animals and if so that they are safely contained so that they do not interrupt or distract the tester.

**BEFORE ENTERING the Residence**

- Telephone the patient or accompanying person to request that the entrance door is left ajar or that the key is the lock to allow the tester to enter without engaging with people who live in the residence
- Confirm that companion animals are contained securely
- Confirm that other residents, particularly children are in a place away from the entrance and the room
- Ask that the person have warm bowl of water available for the test and a pen to sign the consent (or assent if it is not the parent/guardian able to do this, and the card is kept with the accompanying written consent provided by the parent/guardian who can consent)

**ON ENTERING the Residence**

- Perform hand hygiene
- Open PPE and place the plastic sheet on a table top or chair in the entrance area to provide a clean work area
- Leave the drying box for the specimen open on the clean work area provided by the sheet
- Don PPE in the usual manner and enter the room where the parent and infant is waiting
**Having performed the test**

- Continue wearing the PPE and return to your clean workspace carrying the sample in your gloved hand.
- Insert the card into the drying box, **being careful not to touch the outside of the box.**
- Remove gloves and decontaminate your hands with ABHR
- Remove PPE and dispose in the waste bag -
- Put on a fresh pair of gloves
- Close the drying box
- Remove gloves and discard into the waste bag
- Take the specimen container from the clean sheet work area as you leave the residence
- Tie the bag and place in black bag and advise family to dispose in normal waste after 72 hours

**After Leaving the Residence**

- Perform hand hygiene
- Once sample is fully dried, please mark clearly as ‘biohazard’ and send to the lab in Temple Street in the usual way

ENDS